

REMARKS

The subject application has been thoroughly reviewed in light of the outstanding Office Action of April 8, 2004. Original claims 1-18 have been canceled. New claims 19-34 have been added, with claims 19, 24, 27 and 32 being independent. Each of the issues raised in the outstanding Action are addressed below.

New Claims

New claims 19-34 have been added, but correspond substantially in subject matter and scope to original claims 1-18. Support for any additional features recited in the claims that were not included in original claim 1-18 can be found throughout the application. No new matter has been added.

The Drawings

The drawings were objected to for the reasons set out on form PTOL-948. To that end, Applicants enclose a Submission of New Formal Drawings which addresses the concerns raised in the form.

Specification

Applicants have reviewed the specification and, at this time, are unaware of any errors therein.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as reciting subject matter that is anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,401,080 (Bigus et al.). For the following reasons, Applicants submit that the claimed invention is patentable over the prior art.

Claim 19 is directed to a method for enhancing negotiations for telecommunication services. The method includes providing a negotiation engine for negotiating telecommunication services for a telecommunications provider, providing an intelligent agent for negotiating, on behalf of a party, telecommunication services of the telecommunications provider and providing an interface having one or more editable fields corresponding to telecommunication service parameters for the negotiation. Independent claims 24, 27 and 32 recite similar patentable features.

As understood by Applicant, Bigus et al. is directed to an intelligent agent with negotiation capability, and an associated negotiation method. The method includes generating offers for a transaction, waiting for a response from a negotiating party, determining whether to complete the transaction based on the response, and disguising a negotiation strategy from a negotiating party. Specifically, disguising the negotiation strategy includes randomization to limit the predictability of the negotiation agent.

In order for a prior art reference to anticipate the claimed invention, each and every feature of the claim must be disclosed by the reference. To that end, Applicants have thoroughly reviewed Bigus et al. and could find nothing in that reference which discloses providing an interface having one or more editable fields for allowing customization of one or more parameters for the negotiation. Moreover, Applicants could also find nothing in the disclosure which discloses that the one or more parameters may be selected from the following group: a maximum cost of airtime for a predefined unit period, a maximum cost of airtime during a peak airtime period for a predefined unit period, a maximum cost of airtime during an off-peak airtime period for a predefined unit period, common phone number called, a predetermined airtime reservation, a flat fee for cost of the use of the telecommunication

services for a unit period of time during a predetermined airtime reservation, and a maximum cost of roaming.

Accordingly, for at least those reasons, claims 19, 24, 27 and 32 are patentable over Bigus et al.. Since the remaining art of record fails to meet the deficiencies of Bigus et al., these claims are also patentable of the art of record.

Moreover, since the remainder of the claims are dependent from one or another of the independent claims, they necessarily incorporate by reference the features of their base independent claims. Thus, the remainder of the claims are patentable for the same reasons as given above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the issues raised in the Office Action of April 8, 2004 have all been addressed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

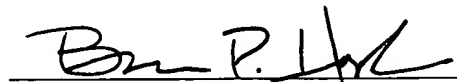
It is believed that no additional fees are due. In the event that it is determined that any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0311.

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Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 692-6803. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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